Interception of Telephones of M.Ps., MLAs and Leaders of Political Parties etc.

3393. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4198 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the authorised officers under Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act is tapping the telephones of the Members of the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies and the leaders of the recognised political parties;

(b) if so, what are the purposes to intercept such telephones;

(c) whether it is true that the telephones of the Members of ruling party including M.Ps. MLAs and Ministers are intercepted;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether Government would direct the authorised officers to intercept the telephones of MPs and MLAs only if they are indulging in criminal activities; and

(f) what instructions have been issued to the authorised officers that they should not use this power of interceptions of telephones to spy the activities of the elected representatives of the people and the leaders of the political parties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (f) Sir, under section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, certain officers specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or State Government may order interception of a telephone in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, Security of State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. The Department of Telecommunications only provides necessary technical assistance in such interceptions and therefore does not exercise any check regarding the telephone number being intercepted. However, the Department is not aware about any such tapping of telephones of Hon'ble M.Ps. and others.

Maintenance of Rosters for SC/ST in recruitment units in Post and Telecom. Directorate

3394. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspection of the reservation rosters/registers maintained for providing representation of SCs/STs in recruitment/ allotment of Government accommodations is being made regularly by the Chief Liaison Officers/Dy. Liaison Officers of Postal and Telecom. Directorate;